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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER RASHID, DAVID	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,430

Applicant(s)

PRYMUS ET AL.

Examiner

DAVID P. RASHID

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendments

[1] This office action is responsive to the claim and specification amendment received on March 21, 2008. Claims 1-34 remain pending.

Specification

[2] In response to applicant's specification amendments and remarks received on March 21, 2008, the previous specification objections are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[3] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

[4] **Claims 1-6, 8, 11, and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(n) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,666,438 (issued Sep. 9, 1997) [*hereinafter* "Beernink '438"].

Regarding **claim 1**, *Beernink '438* discloses a method for presenting a recognized handwritten symbol (fig. 6a; "handwriting recognition" at 2:13-15), comprising the steps of:

detecting ("recognizer implemented by CPU 12 to recognize ink strokes input by a user with stylus 38" at 7:19-21) a handwritten pattern ("ink strokes input" at 7:19-21; *e.g.*, fig. 8, item 95) that is entered by a user (fig.3);

recognizing (“handwriting recognition” at 2:13-15) the detected handwritten pattern, wherein said step of recognizing comprises comparing (the handwriting is compared to each of the templates) the handwritten pattern to a plurality of templates (fig. 8, item 89; e.g., selected character “f” is a template),

wherein each of the plurality of templates (e.g., template “f” in fig. 8) represents at least one of a plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., template “f” comprises four writing symbol patterns including items 95, 95b) of ways of writing symbols (the English alphabet), and

returning a best template (“handwriting recognition is optimized” at 2:47-49) selected from the plurality of templates (fig. 8, item 89; e.g., selected character “f” is a template) that represents one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., template “f” comprises four writing symbol patterns including items 95, 95b) as a best writing symbol pattern which, according to a predefined rule, is most similar to the handwritten pattern (once “Letter Style” preferences are saved, *Beernink* ‘438 uses those preferences to recognize characters),

wherein at least two of the plurality of templates comprise different ones of the plurality of writing symbol patterns which represent different ways of writing a single symbol (each character in list item 89 has four writing symbol patterns item 95; these four writing symbol patterns are accountable for the plurality of templates of “Letter Styles” for each user); and

presenting the best writing symbol pattern of the best template on a screen (fig 3, item 52; “handwriting recognition” at 2:13-15).

EXAMINER'S INTERPRETATION

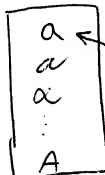
CLAIM 1

① user writes

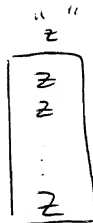


← handwritten pattern

② templates → "a"



writing symbol
pattern "a"



writing sym
pattern "

③ best template selected → "a"

best writing symbol pattern →



Regarding **claim 2**, *Beernink '438* discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of a template is represented by geometrical information (it is implicit if not already inherent that each of the plurality of writing symbol

patterns of a template is “represented by geometrical information” as each of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of a template consists of geometrical information such as height, width, etc – e.g., item 79 requires geometric information) relating to an appearance of each of said plurality of writing symbol patterns.

Regarding **claim 3**, *Beernink* ‘438 discloses the method according to claim 2, wherein the geometrical information (it is implicit if not already inherent that each of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of a template is “represented by geometrical information” as each of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of a template consists of geometrical information such as height, width, etc – e.g., item 79 requires geometric information) comprises information of positions of a number of dots (it is again inherent that the tablet-screen 52 of fig 3 will pick up individual pixels from which the user writes, each pixel being a dot that represents additional positional information on the tablet-screen) representing each of the plurality writing symbol patterns (each character of the English alphabet comprises different ways of writing each character (e.g. fig 6a, item 74 gives 4 different ways), each different way being a writing symbol pattern), said each of the plurality of writing symbol patterns being presented by lines (a stroke of a character written on tablet-screen 52 of fig 3 will contain a string of pixels (dots) that are presented by lines drawn between the pixels, take the “Letter Styles” in fig 6a for instance) drawn between the dots.

Regarding **claim 4**, *Beernink* ‘438 discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the whole best writing symbol pattern (*Beernink* ‘438 discloses only one interpretation thus being the “best interpretation” of the writing symbol

pattern, this occurs “at once” when item 85b on item 81 is turned up to “fast, less accurately” in fig 6a) represented by the best interpretation at once.

Regarding **claim 5**, *Beernink '438* discloses the method according to claim 3, wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the lines one at a time (each time the user writes a stroke to be recognized, that stroke consists of pixels (dots) and lines between the pixels, and each time the user writes a new stroke another line is constructed and thus lines are being presented one at a time).

Regarding **claim 6**, *Beernink '438* discloses the method according to claim 1, further comprising, before the step of presenting, manipulating (“converted into printed words” at 5:65-67, i.e., the handwriting is converted to electronic text) the best writing symbol pattern of the best template according to characteristics of the handwritten pattern.

Regarding **claim 8**, *Beernink '438* discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the handwritten pattern is entered on an input area (the area wherever the user writes on) on the screen (fig 3, item 53) and the best interpretation (*Beernink '438* discloses only one interpretation thus being the “best interpretation” of the writing symbol pattern) is presented in a presentation area (the area wherever the user writes on) on the screen (fig 3, item 53), whereby said presentation area overlaps the input area (when the recognition of the handwriting updates, it is performed right over the same spot, thus overlapping).

Regarding **claim 11**, *Beernink '438* discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of templates is associated with a category (a category is a character from the English alphabet, each category comprised of different user styles writing it, and whether it is

uppercase, lowercase, etc) defining what kind of symbol is represented by each of the plurality of templates.

Regarding **claim 33**, claim 1 recites identical features as in claim 33. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented above for claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 33.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[5] The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

[6] **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beernink '438* in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0026639 (published Oct. 4, 2001) [*hereinafter* “Sparr et al.”].

Regarding **claim 7**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 6, *Beernink '438* does not teach wherein the step of manipulating is done in consideration of at least one characteristic in the group of translation, rotation, slant and scaling.

Sparr et al. teaches wherein a step of manipulating is done in consideration of at least one characteristic in the group of translation, rotation, slant and scaling (fig. 2, fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of manipulating of *Beernink '438* to be done in consideration of at least one characteristic in the group of translation, rotation, slant and scaling as taught by *Sparr et al.* so that “to a larger extent accept[ing] individual styles of handwritten characters and unusual

fonts of typewritten characters, and is easy to implement with limited computing power.”, para. 0006.

[7] **Claims 9-10, 12-16, 18-24, 26-32, and 34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beernink '438* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,439 (issued Oct. 28, 1997) [*hereinafter* “*Beernink '439*”].

Regarding **claim 9**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 1, *Beernink '438* does not disclose wherein the step of recognizing comprises returning at least one alternative template selected from the plurality of templates.

Beernink '439 teaches wherein a step of recognizing comprises returning at least one alternative template (e.g., handwritten “Correct” item 172 returns list item 170, the letter “o” in “Correct” returns templates “o” and “u”) selected from the plurality of templates.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of recognizing of *Beernink '438* to include returning at least one alternative template selected from the plurality of templates as taught by *Beernink '439* to “provide[[s]] the user with some character strings which the recognition software believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.”, *Beernink '439*, 10:54-61.

Regarding **claim 10**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 1, *Beernink '438* does not disclose wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of the at least one alternative template at a request of a user.

Beernink '439 teaches presenting the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., handwritten "Correct" item 172 returns list item 170, the letter "C" in "Correct" returns templates "C" and "c") of the at least one alternative template at a request of a user (the use requested the list item 170).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of recognizing of *Beernink '438* to include presenting the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of the at least one alternative template at a request of a user as taught by *Beernink '439* to "provide[[s]] the user with some character strings which the recognition software believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.", *Beernink '439*, 10:54-61.

Regarding **claim 12**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 11, *Beernink '438* does not disclose wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the presented interpretation according to which category the best interpretation is associated with.

Beernink '439 teaches a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the presented interpretation according to which category the best interpretation is associated with (the masking is performed in step 170 of fig 5 of the best interpretation being presented being the top of the list, among other possibilities of which include "C" and "c" for the character "C").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* '438 to include wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the presented interpretation according to which category the best interpretation is associated with as taught by *Beernink* '439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink* '439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 13**, while *Beernink* '438 in view of *Beernink* '439 disclose the method of claim 12, *Beernink* '438 does not disclose wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of a background to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the presented interpretation.

Beernink '439 discloses a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the category ("C" is "associated" with the capitalized letter category in fig 5, item 170) is indicated by a certain color of a background (the background color is white that indicates "C" is capitalized) to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the presented interpretation (presented interpretations being those listed in item 170, fig 5 with the top on the list being the best interpretation).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* '438 to include wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of a background to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the presented interpretation as taught by *Beernink* '439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink* '439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 14**, while *Beernink* '438 in view of *Beernink* '439 disclose the method of claim 12, *Beernink* '438 does not disclose wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (represented by the presented interpretation).

Beernink '439 discloses a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the category ("C" is "associated" with the capitalized letter category in fig 5, item 170) is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (the color is black that indicates "C" is capitalized) represented by the presented interpretation (presented interpretations being those listed in item 170, fig 5 with the top on the list being the best interpretation).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* '438 to include wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the presented interpretation as taught by *Beernink* '439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink* '439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 15**, while *Beernink* '438 discloses a method for presenting a recognized handwritten symbol (fig. 6a; "handwriting recognition" at 2:13-15), comprising the steps of:

detecting ("recognizer implemented by CPU 12 to recognize ink strokes input by a user with stylus 38" at 7:19-21) a handwritten pattern ("ink strokes input" at 7:19-21; e.g., fig. 8, item 95) that is entered by a user (fig.3);

recognizing ("handwriting recognition" at 2:13-15) the detected handwritten pattern,

wherein said step of recognizing comprises comparing (the handwriting is compared to each of the templates) the handwritten pattern to a plurality of templates (fig. 8, item 89; e.g., selected character “f” is a template),

wherein each of the plurality of templates (e.g., template “f” in fig. 8) represents at least one of a plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., template “f” comprises four writing symbol patterns including items 95, 95b) of ways of writing symbols (the English alphabet), and

returning a best interpretation (the best interpretation is a best writing symbol pattern, i.e., when the user writes “F”, it will pick the best of item 95 and that best pick is the best interpretation, the best interpretation displayed will be capital “F” as opposed to lowercase “f”) of the handwritten pattern, said best interpretation being based on one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns as a best writing symbol pattern (the best writing symbol pattern is picked from the plurality of templates; e.g., template “f” picked with different writing symbol patterns “f” (item 95) for which the best writing symbol pattern “f” will be picked (either item 95a or 95b) when the user writes “f”) of a best template selected from the plurality of templates (fig. 8, item 89; e.g., selected character “f” is a template) that, according to a predefined rule, is most similar to the handwritten pattern (once “Letter Style” preferences are saved, *Beernink ‘438* uses those preferences to recognize characters), wherein at least two of the plurality of templates comprise different one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns which represent different ways of writing a single symbol (each character in list item 89 has four writing symbol patterns item 95; these four writing symbol patterns are accountable for the plurality of templates of “Letter Styles” for each user), and wherein the different ones of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., template “f” comprises four writing symbol patterns including items 95, 95b) of said at least two

of the plurality of templates (e.g., template “F” in fig. 8) return different best interpretations (each template is composed of unique and separate writing symbol patterns, so the best interpretations of those separate writing symbol patterns for each template must be different) when being most similar to the handwritten pattern; and

presenting the best interpretation on a screen (fig 3, item 52; “handwriting recognition” at 2:13-15) *Beernink* ‘438 does not disclose returning a best interpretation among multiple interpretations of the handwritten pattern in the sense of Applicant’s invention.

Beernink ‘439 teaches returning a best interpretation (fig. 5, item 168 wherein the top of the list is the best interpretation) among multiple interpretations (fig. 5, item 170) of a handwritten pattern (fig. 5, item 172).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* ‘438 to include returning a best interpretation among multiple interpretations of the handwritten pattern in the sense of Applicant’s invention as taught by *Beernink* ‘439 to “provide[[s]] the user with some character strings which the recognition software believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.”, *Beernink* ‘439, 10:54-61.

Regarding **claim 16**, *Beernink* ‘438 discloses further comprising, before the step of presenting, retrieving as the best interpretation, from a database comprising allographs, a best allograph (the best allograph is the digital font letter of “F” that is it converted to (e.g., the text

written in fig. 2 is converted to digital font)) that is associated with the best writing symbol pattern of the best template.

Regarding **claim 18**, *Beernink '438* discloses wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the best allograph (the best allograph is the digital font letter of “f” that is it converted to (e.g., the text written in fig. 2 is converted to digital font)) represented by a number of arcs (it is inherent that each allograph is “represented by a number of arcs” as each allograph consists of a series of arcs) depicting the way of writing symbols of the best template.

Regarding **claim 19**, *Beernink '438* discloses wherein the best interpretation is the writing symbol pattern of the best template (refer to claim 15), and wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the best writing symbol pattern (the best writing symbol pattern is picked from the plurality of templates; e.g., template “f” picked with different writing symbol patterns “f” (item 95) for which the best writing symbol pattern “f” will be picked (either item 95a or 95b) when the user writes “f”) of the best template on the screen (e.g., user writes “f”, the algorithm will find the best “f” writing symbol pattern within template “f”).

Regarding **claim 20**, claim 2 recites identical features as in claim 20. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented below for claim 2 are equally applicable to claim 20.

Regarding **claim 21**, claim 3 recites identical features as in claim 21. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented below for claim 3 are equally applicable to claim 21.

Regarding **claim 22**, *Beernink '438* discloses wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the whole best writing symbol pattern (*Beernink '438* discloses only one

interpretation thus being the “best interpretation” of the writing symbol pattern, this occurs “at once” when item 85b on item 81 is turned up to “fast, less accurately” in fig 6a) represented by the best interpretation at once.

Regarding **claim 23**, claim 5 recites identical features as in claim 23. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented below for claim 5 are equally applicable to claim 23.

Regarding **claim 24**, *Beernink '438* discloses further comprising, before the step of presenting, manipulating (“converted into printed words” at 5:65-67, i.e., the handwriting is converted to electronic text) the best writing symbol pattern represented by the best interpretation (refer to claim 15) according to characteristics of the handwritten pattern.

Regarding **claim 26**, *Beernink '438* discloses wherein the handwritten pattern is entered on an input area (the area wherever the user writes on) on the screen (fig 3, item 53) and the best interpretation (*Beernink '438* discloses only one interpretation thus being the “best interpretation” of the writing symbol pattern) is presented in a presentation area (the area wherever the user writes on) on the screen (fig 3, item 53), whereby said presentation area overlaps the input area (when the recognition of the handwriting updates, it is performed right over the same spot, thus overlapping).

Regarding **claim 27**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 1, *Beernink '438* does not disclose wherein the step of recognizing comprises returning at least one alternative interpretation.

Beernink '439 teaches wherein a step of recognizing comprises returning at least one alternative interpretation (e.g., handwritten "Correct" item 172 returns list item 170, the letter "C" in "Correct" returns templates "C" and "c").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of recognizing of *Beernink '438* to include returning at least one alternative interpretation as taught by *Beernink '439* to "provide[[s]] the user with some character strings which the recognition software believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.", *Beernink '439*, 10:54-61.

Regarding **claim 28**, while *Beernink '438* discloses the method of claim 1, *Beernink '438* does not disclose wherein the step of presenting the at least one alternative interpretation at the request of a user.

Beernink '439 teaches presenting the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (e.g., handwritten "Correct" item 172 returns list item 170, the letter "C" in "Correct" returns templates "C" and "c") of the at least one alternative interpretation at a request of a user (the use requested the list item 170).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of recognizing of *Beernink '438* to include presenting the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns of the at least one alternative interpretation at a request of a user as taught by *Beernink '439* to "provide[[s]] the user with some character strings which the

recognition software believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.”, *Beernink* ‘439, 10:54-61.

Regarding **claim 29**, *Beernink* ‘438 discloses wherein the best interpretation is associated with a category (a category is a character from the English alphabet, each category comprised of different user styles writing it, and whether it is uppercase, lowercase, etc) defining what kind of symbol is represented by each of the plurality of templates.

Regarding **claim 30**, while *Beernink* ‘438 in view of *Beernink* ‘439 discloses the method of claim 29, *Beernink* ‘438 in view of *Beernink* ‘439 does not disclose wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the best interpretation according to which category the best interpretation is associated with.

Beernink ‘439 discloses a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the best interpretation according to which category the best interpretation is associated with (the masking is performed in step 170 of fig 5 of the best interpretation being presented being the top of the list, among other possibilities of which include "C" and "c" for the character "C").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* ‘438 in view of *Beernink* ‘439 to include wherein the step of presenting comprises masking the presentation of the best interpretation according to which

category the best interpretation is associated with as taught by *Beernink* '439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink* '439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 31**, while *Beernink* '438 in view of *Beernink* '439 and *Beernink* '439 disclose the method of claim 30, *Beernink* '438 in view of *Beernink* '439 and *Beernink* '439 does not disclose wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of a background to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the best interpretation.

Beernink '439 discloses a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the category ("C" is "associated" with the capitalized letter category in fig 5, item 170) is indicated by a certain color of a background (the background color is white that indicates "C" is capitalized) to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the best interpretation (best interpretations being those listed in item 170, fig 5 with the top on the list being the best interpretation).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink* '438 in view of *Beernink* '439 and *Beernink* '439 to include wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of a background to the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the best interpretation as taught by *Beernink* '439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink* '439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 32**, while *Beernink*'438 in view of *Beernink*'439 disclose the method of claim 30, *Beernink*'438 does not disclose wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the best interpretation.

Beernink'439 discloses a boxed input correction system and method for pen based computer systems (fig 1) that teaches wherein the category ("C" is "associated" with the capitalized letter category in fig 5, item 170) is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns (the color is black that indicates "C" is capitalized) represented by the best interpretation (best interpretations being those listed in item 170, fig 5 with the top on the list being the best interpretation).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the method of *Beernink*'438 to include wherein the category is indicated by a certain color of the at least one of the plurality of writing symbol patterns represented by the best interpretation as taught by *Beernink*'439 to provide "a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box.", *Beernink*'439, 2:51-54.

Regarding **claim 34**, claim 15 recites identical features as in claim 34. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented above for claim 15 are equally applicable to claim 34.

[8] **Claim 17** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beernink*'438 in view of *Beernink*'439 and U.S. Patent No. 5,970,170 (issued Oct. 19, 1999) [*hereinafter* "Kadashevich et al."].

Regarding **claim 17**, while *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* discloses the method according to claim 16, wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting the best allograph represented by an image (fig 7, item 76) depicting the way of writing symbols of the best template, *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* do not disclose wherein the image is a bitmap image.

Kadashevich et al. discloses a character recognition system identification of scanned and real time handwritten characters that includes teaching a bitmap image (8:60-67; 9:17-22; 13:16-20).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the image of *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* to be a bitmap image as taught by *Kadashevich et al.* to provide an "array wherein each bit in the array represents a pixel of the...image, with the state of bit (0 or 1) representing whether the corresponding pixel is a background or foreground pixel and the location of the bit in the array representing the coordinates of the corresponding pixel in the image.", *Kadashevich et al.*, 8:60-67.

[9] **Claim 25** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* and *Sparr et al.*

Regarding **claim 25**, claim 7 recites identical features as in claim 25. Thus, references/arguments equivalent to those presented above for claim 7 are equally applicable to claim 25.

Response to Arguments

[10] Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-8** and **11** under **35 U.S.C. § 102(b)** *Comerford* have been fully considered and are persuasive. The **35 U.S.C. § 102(b)** rejection of *Comerford* has been withdrawn.

[11] Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-5, 8, and 33** under **35 U.S.C. § 102(b)** *Beernink '438* (Applicant Resp. at 13-5) have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. An alternative rejection of *Beernink '438* has been used. See Examiner's Interpretation.

[12] Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 6-7, 9-16, 18-32, and 34** under **35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* (Applicant Resp. at 15-8) have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. An alternative rejection of *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* has been used. See Examiner's Interpretation.

[13] Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 17** under **35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** *Beernink '438* in view of *Beernink '439* and *Kadashevich* (Resp. at 18-9) have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. An alternative rejection of *Beernink '438* has been used. See Examiner's Interpretation.

Conclusion

[14] The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US 5105468 A; US 5239592 A; US 5454046 A; US 5559897 A; US 5559942 A; US 5588073 A; US 5610996 A; US 5802205 A; US 6021218 A; US 6101280 A; US 6144764 A; US 6226403 B1; US 6370269 B1; US 6647145 B1.

[15] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID P. RASHID whose telephone number is (571)270-1578. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 7:30 - 17:00 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikram Bali can be reached on (571) 272-74155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David P Rashid/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

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